

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## U.N. says refugee numbers at record level

22nd June, 2016



Photo - OCHA/Themba Linden

Last year was the worst year on record for the number of people who became refugees. The United Nations (U.N.) said that in 2015, over 65.3 million people were forced to leave their home or country. This is an increase of over five million from 59.5 million over the previous year. The 2015 figure is a 50 per cent increase from five years ago. It also means that 1 in every 113 people on the planet is now a refugee, an asylum seeker or someone displaced in their own country. The U.N. reported that: "Twenty-four people are displaced every minute." It added that two-thirds of the forcibly displaced are refugees in their own country. The figures come from the "Global Trends" report marking World Refugee Day on June the 20th.

The U.N. said the biggest reason for the record number of refugees in 2015 is war. Fighting in Syria, Afghanistan, Burundi and South Sudan has created the largest number of refugees. Half of them are children. The U.N. said more than 98,000 asylum requests in 2015 were made by unaccompanied children. This is the highest number ever seen. The U.N. added that: "Ninety percent of the forcibly displaced are [from] poor or middle income countries." Many of them are escaping from wars only to face big problems at borders. These include walls and fences in Europe, tougher laws against immigration and xenophobia. The U.N. said the only way to overcome the problem is, "political action to stop conflicts".

Sources: VOA News.com / reuters.com / WashingtonPost

## Writing

No country should say no to an asylum seeker. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

last year / refugees / increase / planet / asylum seeker / United Nations / country / record / number / fighting / half / poor / middle income / big problems / borders

## True / False

- a) Over 100 million people became refugees in 2015. T / F
- b) One in 113 people on Earth is a refugee, asylum seeker or is displaced. T / F
- c) Twenty-four people are forcibly displaced every minute. T / F
- d) World Refugee Day was on the 20th of June. T / F
- e) The biggest reason for the record number of refugees is famine. T / F
- f) Over 198,000 unaccompanied children applied for asylum in 2015. T / F
- g) Ninety per cent of the forcibly displaced were very poor. T / F
- h) Refugees had the problem of people fearing or disliking them. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. forced        | a. biggest     |
| 2. increase      | b. remembering |
| 3. previous      | c. control     |
| 4. asylum        | d. conflict    |
| 5. marking       | e. rise        |
| 6. war           | f. lone        |
| 7. largest       | g. made        |
| 8. unaccompanied | h. fleeing     |
| 9. escaping      | i. earlier     |
| 10. overcome     | j. refuge      |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What will create more refugees in the future?
- b) What do you think it's like to be a refugee?
- c) What should happen to leaders who created the refugee crisis?
- d) How can we help refugee children?
- e) How would you feel if you were forced to leave your home?
- f) How can we end xenophobia?
- g) Should all countries have to accept and help refugees?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the head of the UN?

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## Phrase Match

1. Last year was the worst
  2. forced to
  3. one in every
  4. two-
  5. The figures come from the
  6. This is the highest number
  7. poor or middle
  8. Many of them are escaping
  9. tougher laws against
  10. political action
- a. 113 people
  - b. immigration
  - c. "Global Trends" report
  - d. to stop conflicts
  - e. income countries
  - f. year on record
  - g. leave their home
  - h. ever seen
  - i. thirds
  - j. from wars

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why are there so many refugees today?
- c) What do you know about refugees?
- d) What was the last story about refugees you read about?
- e) What do you think of the rise in refugee numbers?
- f) What does your country do to help refugees?
- g) What advice do you have for refugees?
- h) What should we do on World Refugee Day?

## Spelling

1. the worst year on rordec
2. 65.3 million people were ocerfd to leave
3. an riseacne of over five million
4. an ymalus seeker
5. 24 people are displaced every inumet
6. The igefrus come from the "Global Trends" report
7. the biggest eonsar
8. the etghhis number ever seen
9. poor or middle nceiom countries
10. peigcsna from wars
11. face big problems at orbdres
12. political action to stop ncltoicsf

## Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. j	5. b
6. d	7. a	8. f	9. h	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – Internet access

You think Internet access is what refugees in camps need most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): language lessons, contact with embassy staff or blankets.

### Role B – Language lessons

You think language lessons are You think Internet access is what refugees in camps need most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Internet access, contact with embassy staff or blankets.

### Role C – Contact with embassy staff

You think contact with embassy staff is You think Internet access is what refugees in camps need most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): language lessons, Internet access or blankets.

### Role D – Blankets

You think blankets are You think Internet access is what refugees in camps need most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): language lessons, contact with embassy staff or Internet access.

## Speaking – Refugee camps

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that would help those in refugee camps most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- contact with embassy staff
- community centres
- medicine
- blankets
- Internet access
- advice
- language lessons
- clothes

## Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.